

## Uniformed Army Scientist and Engineer Program Holds Roundtable at the 2004 AUSA Winter Symposium & Exhibition\*



Army Acquisition Executive/Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Claude M. Bolton Jr. told UAS&E officers they are the vanguard of the program. U.S. Army photos by Mike Roddin.

**The Uniformed Army Scientist and Engineer (UAS&E) Program members conducted a roundtable March 4, 2004, during the Association of the United States Army Winter Symposium and Exhibition in Fort Lauderdale, FL, to obtain guidance and direction from senior Army acquisition leaders.**

BG Charles A. Cartwright, the Deputy Commanding General for Systems of Systems Integration, hosted the event, with introductory remarks from the Honorable Claude M. Bolton Jr., Army Acquisition Executive (AAE) and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASAALT).

GEN Paul J. Kern, Commanding General, Army Materiel Command (AMC); LTG Joseph L. Yakovac Jr., Military Deputy to the ASAALT; and MG John C. Doesburg, Commanding General, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command also made presentations.



COL Mary Fuller, Director, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center, kicked off the UAS&E Roundtable with welcoming remarks.

"You are the vanguard for this program — you are the future," Bolton told the UAS&E officers assembled. "I want you to know that I fully support this program."

GEN Kern elaborated on the need for UAS&E members to be great communicators in the Army acquisition processes. "The challenge before you today is that you need to speak the language that your customers speak," Kern explained. "The UAS&E program means that you understand both science and operation. The organizational process is one of the pearls of the Army."

"You will need to not only sell ideas, but also convince people that these ideas will work," Kern continued. "We need to understand the physics of the systems we use, like the electromagnetic eye. We need people who can understand the physics, the programs and their capabilities. We need to be able to bridge the gaps. We need you to be able to help us to fill in the gaps in communication."

MG Doesburg asked those assembled to think about how the UAS&E program can be structured so that it takes into consideration issues such as career paths for young captains. "How can we build a program that your successors can be successful in as well as you?" asked Doesburg. "My ultimate goal is to have someone in this crowd be my replacement and BG Cartwright's replacement. Someone who can integrate technology on a systems-to-systems approach to enhance technology for the warfighter."

During the roundtable, UAS&E Program members and senior leaders discussed:



GEN Paul J. Kern, Commanding General, AMC, told UAS&E officers that the Army needs people with their capabilities to make the future happen.

- The role of the Uniformed Science Advisor.
- Defining the UAS&E Career Path.
- Identifying the Ph.D. requirement for Army acquisition.
- The UAS&E role in Current to Future Force transition.

"Developing future courses of action for the UAS&E Program was one of our main goals for this roundtable," remarked MAJ Jonathan D. Long, ASC S&T Officer. "Technological advancement is the key to a more lethal, more strategic, full-spectrum force with a Joint and expeditionary mindset," Long explained. "In sharing our ideas with, and obtaining guidance from our



MG John C. Doesburg, Commanding General, RDECOM, told UAS&E members that recommendations from the roundtable would be presented to senior leadership.

senior leaders, we are able to improve and move forward with a program that will result in placing advanced technological capabilities into the hands of Soldiers at a more rapid rate." Current initiatives being supported by UAS&E Program members include:

- UAS&E Science Advisor support to the AMC Field Assistance in Science & Technology Team and Combatant Commanders.
- The Army Science Conference scheduled for Nov. 24 - Dec. 2, 2004.
- Future support to the Army Science Board.
- Supporting the virtual eCYBERMISSION <http://www.ecybermission.com/>.

The AAE/ASAALT approved the UAS&E Program in August 2003 and Oct. 1, 2003, the first 33 officers were inducted into the program at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY. Current information on UAS&E positions, certification standards, leader briefings and program archives is available in the UAS&E Knowledge Collaboration Center on Army Knowledge Online.

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\* This article was compiled by the U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center's Strategic Communications Division staff.